

HAMATEURCHATTER

One of the World's Oldest Continuously Active Radio Amateur Clubs - since 1917

Vol.12 No. 02 - Feb., 2004

MRAC Officers

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Vice Pres. (262) 548-6138
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Tom Schulte AB9EK

Treasurer (414) 762-0396
Joe Schwaz N9UX

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HamateurChatter Editor

Pancho Doneis KA9OFA
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HamateurChatter Mailings

Joe Schwarz N9UX
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Field Trip Possible

Keep your ears open at our meetings. There's a possibility that we might be making a field trip to the National Weather Office in Sullivan. It isn't a done deal, yet and we don't have any details, but we'll keep you posted.

Election Coming Up

Election of officers and two board of director positions will take place in May with nominations being in April.

Here is your chance to make a contribution to the club. We need people to run for several offices in the club as well as two positions on the board of directors.

Our nominating nommittee is comprised of Dave DeFebo - WB9BWP, Sherm Swanson - KB9Q, and Jack Hughes - W9ULA.

If any of you would like to run for office or if you know of someone whom you think would be good in a particular office, please let committee or aclub officers know. We need your cooperation.

Field Day

Keep Sat. and Sun., June 26 & 27 open for Field Day. If you haven't been to a Field Day, you've missed a true Ham experience. There will be more on Field day in upcoming issues of the 'Chatter.

73,



HamateurChatter

is the newsletter of MRAC (Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club) which is a not for profit organization for the advancement of amateur radio and the maintenance of fraternalism and a high standard of conduct.

MRAC Membership dues are \$17.⁰⁰ per year and run on a calendar year starting with January 1.

MRAC general membership meetings are held at:

Redemption Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.

Milwaukee, WI

Meetings are normally held at 7:00 PM. the last Thursday of the month except for December.

Our Club/VEC Phone no. is

**(262) 332-MRAC or
(262) 332- 6722**

Visit our website at:

<http://www.qsl.net/mrac/>

Correspondence may be addressed to:

M. R. A. C.

P.O. Box 070695

Milwaukee, WI 53207-0695

or

w9rh@arrl.net

MILWAUKEE AREA NETS

DAY	TIME	MHz	ACTIVITY
Daily	5:00 - 7:15 AM	3.985	Badger Weather Net
Daily	6:00 PM	1.895	MidEast 160 m. Net
Daily	6-8:00 AM	14.290	Wisconsin/Florida (SSB)
Daily	7:30 AM	144.155	Breakfast RoundTable (SSB)
Daily	6:30 PM	3.645	WI Slow Speed CW Traffic
Daily	9:30 PM	3.792.5	Country Cousins Net
Mon.-Sat.	12:00 PM	28.380	10/10 International Net
Mon.	8:00 PM	3.994	Tech Net
Mon.	8:00 PM	146.865-	ARES Net (Walworth and ARRL news)
Mon.	8:00 PM	146.445	Emergency Net
Mon.	8:45 PM	146.670-	ARRL voice news (ARES)
Mon.	9:00 PM	50.160	6 m.SSB NET
Mon.	9:00 PM	146.670-	ARES Net (Milwaukee-Waukesha)
Tue.	9:00 AM	50.160	6 Mtr. 2nd Shifters' SSB Net
Tue.	8:00 PM	144.250	Badger Contesters (SSB)

DAY	TIME	MHz	ACTIVITY
Tue.	8:00 PM	7.035	A.F.A.R. (CW)
Tue.	8:30 PM	223.500	X-Country Simplex Group (FM)
Tue.	9:00 PM	50.160	6 m. SSB Net.
Wed.	8:00 PM	28.365	10/10 Internat. (Milw. Ch.) (SSB)
Wed.	8:00 PM	145.130	ARRL voice news
Wed.	8:00 PM	147.270+	Weather & Swap net.
hu.	9:00 PM	50.160	6 mtr. SSB Net.
Thu.	9:00 PM	146.910-	Computer Net
Fri.	8:30 PM	28.490	MRAC W9RH 10 m. Net (SSB)
Fri.	9:00 PM	145.390-	W9RH 2 m. FM Net after 10mtr.
Sat	9:00 PM	146.910-	Saturday Night Fun Net
Sun.	8:30 AM	3.985	QCWA (Chptr 55) (SSB)
Sun.	9:00 AM	145.565	X-Country Simplex Group (FM)
Sun.	10:00 AM	443.800+	FM-38 link to 146.88 Bar. SWAP Net
Sun.	8:00 PM	28.365	10/10 Int. (MKE Ch.) (SSB)
Sun.	8:00 PM	146.910-	Information Net
Sun.	9:00 PM	146.910-	Swap Net

2 meter repeaters are offset by 600KHz -- 70 centimeter repeaters are offset by 5 MHz
SSB frequencies below 20 meters are LSB and for 20 mtrs and above are USB

'CHATTER DEADLINE

The deadline for items to be published in HamateurChatter is 7th day of every month. If you anything for the 'Chatter, please get it to me before then.

Contact me by email at:

pancho@thepark.net

or by snailmail at:

Pancho Doneis -
KA9OFA
1958 N. 38th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53208

or by phone at:

(414) 344-4694

VEC News

MRAC VEC held VE testing on Jan 31, 2004 at AES. There were 7 candidates, and all were successful in either qualifying for their initial license or in upgrading. We had 1 Amateur Extra, 2 Generals, and 4 new Technicians. Nine elements were given, and 8 were passed. Conducting the VE session were the following VEs:

Mark Bye KB9LDX
Kent Christiansen N9WH
Tom Czaja KG9EE
Ken Eggert W9MOT
Bob Immekus W9CYI
John Kraak KF9XL
Tom Schulte AB9EK
Sherm Swanson KB9Q
Mark Tellier AB9CD
Jerry Thompson W9SFH

A special thanks to all candidates and VEs who came out on a very cold morning.

Our next exam session will be Sat., Feb. 28, 2004 at 9:30AM at AES.

73,

John (KF9XL)

John KF9XL

VEC TESTING

- Sat. - Feb. 28, 2004
9:30 @ AES
- Sat. - Apr. 3, 2004
9:00 AM @ AES
(SuperFest)
- Sat. - Apr. 24, 2004
9:30 AM @ AES
- Sat. - May 29, 2004
9:30 AM @ AES

**AES = Amateur
Electronic Supply**

5710 W. Good Hope Rd.
Milwaukee, WI



MEMBERSHIP MEETING JAN. 29, 2004

The meeting was called to order by Brian, K9LCQ, the club's vice president. The microphone was passed for introductions.

Tom, AB9EK, read the minutes of the November membership meeting. A motion was made by Howard and seconded by Sherm to accept the minutes as read. Motion passed.

Our new club treasurer, Joe, N9UX thanked Mark AB9CD for the help in the transfer of the treasurer's records to him. Joe gave the treasurer's report for the months of December and January. A motion was made by Sherm and seconded by Pancho to accept the report as read. Motion passed.

Sherm gave a rundown on the upcoming FM simplex contest on February 8th. He would like to see everyone get on the air and enjoy the contest. The 2 meter portion of the contest has been expanded to 45 minutes; and 440, 220 and 6 meters

will stay at 30 minutes. Sherm also spoke about contesting and logging software that is available on the web. Just go to the ARRL web page and search under contests. Brian showed the certificate that will be given out to the winners of the FM contest.

Field Day this year is June 26th and 27th. Jerry, WA9CGE, is this year's Field Day chairman. All efforts will be on 80/40/20/15 and 10 meters. Come out and enjoy the weekend and bring along your friends. Nels, WA9YAL, and his wife will be asked again this year to do the food preparations.

Brian stated that at this time the repeater is working fine and is getting a little busier, which is good. CW practice is being done on the air on Mondays and Wednesdays at 6:30 pm.

Pancho stated that Jack, W9JK, is still laid up but is on the air from time to time so if you hear him on

the repeater, give him a shout.

Tom, AB9EK, stated the club had received a certificate from the ARRL for our contribution to the Broadband over the Power line fund. Also, the club's renewed insurance certificate had been received.

Brian thanked Jerry, WA9CGE, for bringing in the amp to use with the wireless microphone.

A motion was made by Pancho and seconded by Sherm to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 pm. Meeting adjourned. The program, Antenna Wind Loading was presented by Jeff, K9VS. If you missed the program, you can download it from the club's web page.

Respectfully submitted,



Tom Schulte, AB9EK
Club Secretary

REMINDER

Check in to our nets on Friday evenings.

The **Ten Meter SSB** net is at **8:30 PM @ 28.490 Mhz**.

Our **Two Meter FM** net follows at **9:00 PM** on our repeater @ **145.390 MHz** with a **- offset** and a **PL of 127.3 Hz**

Join us for Saturday morning breakfast at Maxim's Restaurant, 18025 W. Capitol Dr. We usually meet at **8:00 AM**, and **order** around **8:15 AM**. Good food and Fellowship.

PROGRAMS

February

Our program for our February meeting will be a round table discussion on proposed Amateur license restructuring.

April

Our April presentation is set. Don Michalski, W9IXG (our local ARRL Section manager), will present a program on **Wire Antennas** to head us into the antenna building season

May

The May program will be the Election of Officers and our Annual Auction.

Future

Possible upcoming MRAC programs are:

- Meteor Scatter
- Packet
- a trip to the National Weather Office in Sullivan

Feel free to make suggestions of programs to our officers or board members.

Or if you would like to present a program, please step forward and let us know.

GRID SQUARES

MAIDENHEAD LOCATOR SYSTEM

The European VHF managers developed this system in 1980 at a village called Maidenhead just outside of London where they met and reached agreement.

The world was divided up such that any location in the world could be identified within 5 minutes Longitude and 2.5 minutes Latitude – about 3 X 4 miles in the continental United States. When I evolved to PSK31, I was surprised that almost all the PSK QSO's include the Maidenhead Locator (Field and Square). In my previous experience, their use has been limited to 50 MHz and above.

There is a six unit designator consisting of Fields (FF), Squares (##) and Sub-squares (ss). (Mine is EN52vv). This leads to field hunting. The first two symbols of your Maidenhead Locator (mine is EN) are known as "Fields." They are 20 degrees longitude and 10 degrees latitude. Therefore there are 18 units East and West and 18 Units North and South for a total of 324 Fields. There is competition for working the

most Fields, with most of the interest in Europe. On the nine MF and HF bands, totals range from 119 Fields worked on 10 MHz to 239 on 14 MHz. As of April 2002, all the leaders except the 10 MHz leaders, a W1, have Swedish calls. In our locality, the grid square (the first four symbols) hunting seems to be limited to 50 MHz and above. There are more details and VHF/UHF/SHF totals listed at <http://www.algonet.se/~jonit/fielddlist/index.htm>.

Again, a field is 20° longitude (East-West) and 10° latitude (North South). The continental United States is part of 10 Fields, CN to FN in the North, CM to FM in the South and DL and EL picking up the subtropical regions of Texas, Louisiana and Florida. A square is 2° longitude and 1° latitude and it follows that these divide the fields into 100 units numbered 00 to 99. Finally a sub-square, the 5th and 6th alphabetic characters, divides the square by 5 minutes longitude and 2.5 minutes latitude. As noted, these are very small units, about three by four miles in the U.S. and are

not used until contact exchanges are made in the 10-GHz range. There are simple programs available to calculate your locator and the advent of the GPS units make it a trivial chore.

There is at least one GPS locator that will give the Maidenhead locator directly. If you have any kind of survey map this should give your precise location and there are manual methods to determine your designator. (See last paragraph). My location as determined from a geodetic survey map and a great circle map program I have is EN52vv. In my operating modes, since I have no equipment above 70 centimeters, the only exchange of value is EN52. (As noted above, FF##)

This is a very minimal discussion and much is taken primarily from an article on page 86 of the April 1994 QST. This is available via search and downloads from the ARRL site on the WWW.

73,

73 Sherms KB9Q
Sherm KB9Q

Credits

Our thanks to our news contributors this month:

AB9EK KB9Q
KF9XL

Thanks also to Rita Doneis and Tom Fuszard for help in the proof-reading dept. Our thanks goes to Dick Wood for making sure that the 'Chatter gets printed, stamped and mailed and to Mark Tellier who Emails it.

Thanks also goes to Howard Parks who administers our website.

Thanks also to Ted Stiller for obtaining and serving refreshments at our meetings.

Thanks also goes to Tom Sherlowsky and Jacquie Horwitz for taking care of the raffle at the meetings.

Thanks Mark Tellier, Tom Czaja, John Kraak and Tom Fuszard who are our VEC's

Special thanks to Matt Karshna for help with resolving several challenges dealing with the production of the 'Chatter.

**Thank
YOU!**

CLUB NETS

Join us for our Friday night W9RH 10 meter net at:

8:30 PM at 28.490 MHz SSB. Then join us afterwards on our repeater for the Friday evening 2 mtr. net. It's at 9:00 PM at 145.390 MHz minus offset with a PL of 127.3 Hz.

EVENTS

* = VE Testing

February MRAC General meeting
Thu. - Feb 26, 2004

Redemption Lutheran Church
Milwaukee, WI

La Porte Amateur Radio Club
Cabin Fever Hamfest
SAT. - FEB 28, 2004
The Civic Auditorium
La Porte IN
146.520 MHz simplex

March MRAC General meeting
Thu. - Mar 25, 2004

Redemption Lutheran Church
Milwaukee, WI

Tri - County Radio Club *
HamFest 2004

SUN. - MAR. 21, 2004

JEFFERSON CO. FAIRGROUNDS
JEFFERSON, WI

Michigan City HamFest
SAT. - MAR. 27, 2004

Michigan City Bingo Hall
TALK-IN: 146.970 - 131.8pl

SuperFest 2004 *

FRI & SAT. - APR. 2 & 3, 2004
AES
Milwaukee, WI

2004 Madison HamFest &
Computer Show

SUN. - APR. 18, 2004

Mandt Community Ctr.
Stoughton, WI
T/I on 147.15MHz rpt.

Computer Show
SUN. - APR. 18, 2004
Mandt Community Ctr.
Stoughton, WI
T/I on 147.15MHz rpt.

Reserved

This space is **reserved for YOUR contribution** of photos and/or descriptions of your shacks or stories of your Amateur radio experiences or Hints and Kinks, editorial, or whatever you may want to put in here related to the radio amateur or of interest to hams. If you need more room for your story/article, etc. we can arrange for it.

The deadline for inclusion in any particular issue of HamateurChatter is the 7th of the month of that particular issue.

You may contact me at or send any contributions to:

(414) 344-4694

by Email at: **pancho@thepark.net**

or snailmail at:

Pancho Doneis - KA9OFA

1958 N. 38th St.

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or the club mail box

M.R.A.C.

Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club

attn: Pancho Doneis - KA9OFA

P.O. Box 070695

Milwaukee, WI 53207-0695

The **next Meeting of M.R.A.C.**
will be **Thursday - February 26, 2004**
at **7:00 PM** at:

Redemption Lutheran Church

Fellowship Hall

4057 N. Mayfair Rd.

(Use the South entrance)

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

Please don't call the church.

The program for the
February 26th MRAC
general meeting
will be a
Roundtable Discus-
sion on ARRL
proposed license
restructuring.